



Lowcountry Master Gardener Association

www.LowcountryMasterGardeners.org

2016 Master Gardener Classes are being offered.

The latest garden trends report Gardening is one of America's most popular and therapeutic pastimes with 47 million people growing vegetable gardens. Do you need help with your lawn, garden or flowers? Are you puzzled about growing in a new climate, heat, humidity, poor soils, and what grows in the Coastal South? Do you want to share your gardening knowledge as a volunteer? The Clemson Extension Master Gardener Program will be offered at Beaufort and Hilton Head locations in the Winter/Spring 2016. Registration applications may be obtained by emailing lrose@clemson.edu or calling (843) 255-6060 ext. 117, or you can find them on this website under Master Gardener Program.

Master Gardeners are not just another garden club. The mission of the Clemson Extension Master Gardener program is to "train and utilize knowledgeable volunteers to facilitate the educational work of local Consumer Horticulture Agents by delivering research based information to the citizens of South Carolina." Master Gardeners provide a service to the community by delivering programs to help others become better gardeners. Last year local Master Gardeners reported over 5000 hours of educational and community service in Beaufort County. The "Lunch and Learn" speaker series won 3rd place in the International Master Gardener 2013 Search for Excellence. Volunteers worked in local schools, community gardens, Hilton Head Xeriscape Garden, Waddell Mariculture Center Buffer project and the new Crystal Lake Park on Lady's Island. They also provided landscape and garden advice at local farmers markets, Hilton Head Plant Clinic and the Beaufort Extension Office.



Master Gardener Volunteer Explaining Worm Composting at St. Helena School



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The course lasts 14 weeks or 40 hours of class instruction and is a survey of soils, fertility, botany, plant physiology, entomology, pathology, plant propagation, vegetables, fruits, turf, landscape design, and the selection and care of woody and herbaceous plant materials. Graduates of the program agree to volunteer 40 hours of service and continued education as “interns” before becoming certified Master Gardeners. Often they work with experienced volunteers at plant clinics and site visits at homeowners’ requests. Volunteers assist local non-profit organizations providing information on plant selection, identification, understanding soil reports, irrigation, composting, mulching and proper planting dates and techniques. They do not endorse services or products, but do provide research based information on Integrated Pest Management for insect, disease and weed control. They also develop and present environmental and gardening programs to garden, civic, 4-H, youth or school clubs.



Master Gardeners, Beaufort County, and Town of Bluffton employees planted native grasses at the Oyster Factory Park

For individuals who don't have the time to attend an afternoon class, there is an online program that is available. Please visit the Master Gardener Program website to find out about the course and you can also visit the Lowcountry Master Gardener Association Website to see projects that our local volunteers have completed.

<http://www.clemson.edu/extension/mg/index.html>

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